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SBA Announces Annual Award Winner

Bixby & Co. LLC Owner Named Young Entrepreneur of the Year

Augusta, Maine – Today, the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) announced the winner of its annual Young Entrepreneur of the Year Award for 2015. Kate McAleer of Bixby & Co. LLC has been selected for this prestigious honor.

“It is always wonderful to see the creativity and determination that young entrepreneurs like Kate bring to their businesses,” said Marilyn Geroux, SBA District Director for Maine. “It is a particular pleasure to select a business that has decided to relocate to Maine, as Bixby has done” added Geroux.

Bixby & Co. LLC is located in Rockland. The company was started in 2011 by Ms. McAleer as an organic producer of chocolate bars. In 2013, the company moved to Maine from New York state. Since the move, Ms. McAleer has participated in numerous entrepreneurial development opportunities, such as Maine Center for Entrepreneurial Development’s “Top Gun” program, Gorham Savings Bank’s “Launchpad” competition, and the Women’s Business Center at CEI.

“Always on the lookout for opportunities for growth, Kate has steered this ever-growing family-owned company into national distribution in an amazingly short amount of time,” said Ruth Cash-Smith of the Women’s Business Center, who nominated Ms. McAleer for this award. “No longer an untried newcomer to the complex and difficult world of wholesale chocolate manufacturing, Bixby & Co. is now ably navigating new waters in terms of determining how best to strategically grow their company, according to their own values and mission” she added.

Ms. McAleer will be honored at an SBA reception on May 5th, 2015 at the Augusta Country Club in Manchester.

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